CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

August 6, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House of Representatives 235 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-0508

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are writing to urge your support for H.R. 1586—specifically the provisions in H.R. 1586 that (a) extend the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) through June 2011, and (b) contain the Education Jobs Fund. We are very grateful that the House is reconvening to vote on this critical bill; it reflects the urgency and enormous impact the measure will have on jobs and the economy.

The enhanced FMAP extension is essential to protecting vital services in California. Indeed, the current enhanced FMAP, which is set to expire at the end of this year, has helped prevent reductions to many of California's safety net programs. H.R. 1586 is a key element for helping the state balance its budget. It provides about \$1.3 billion and will help avoid even more severe cuts in critical health care safety net programs.

The Education Jobs Fund would provide much-needed relief to over a thousand school districts in California, and could help save 16,500 jobs for the men and women who work in our public schools. This year, our state's financial overseer has identified a record number of school districts in severe financial crisis, and the \$1.22 billion in funding that California is expected to receive from the Education Jobs Fund will help a good number of them avoid bankruptcy.

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California has already made deep cuts in Medicaid, education, and social services spending. We will continue to do our part in addressing our budget crisis, but we need your assistance as we seek solutions to aid our state's economic recovery. We look forward to working with you to find other areas where we can work in partnership toward the resolution of our state's fiscal woes that are hampering those recovery efforts.

We urge your support for H.R. 1586.

Sincerely,

DARRELL STEINBER

President Pro Tempore

California Senate

JOHN A. PÉREZ

Speaker

California Assembly

cc: Members, California Congressional Delegation